

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2370

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001

SUPREME COURT'S ORDERS FOR CLEAN AND POLLUTION FREE CITIES

GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered the Government to keep metropolitan cities clean and pollution free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have constituted a high level Committee to look into the matter;
- (d) if so, whether the Committee has submitted any interim report;
- (e) if so, the recommendation given by the Committee; and
- (f) the time frame fixed for presentation of report by the Committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. It is the responsibility of the State Governments and concerned urban local bodies to keep metropolitan cities clean and pollution free. However, in Writ Petition (Civil) No.888/1996 filed by Mrs. Almitra H. Patel against the Union of India, all State Governments and others regarding Solid Waste Management, the Hon'ble Supreme Court while examining the issue of cleanliness in the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore, had directed the Union of India to send a specific response in respect of Delhi, as well as for identification and allotment of land to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for setting up of landfills and compost plants.

(c): Under the Writ Petition (Civil) referred to above, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the then Municipal Commissioner, Calcutta Municipal Corporation on 16.1.98 to look into all aspects of Solid Waste Management in Class-I cities and to submit its report by 30.6.98. The Union Government and State Governments were directed to facilitate the work of the Committee.

(d): The Committee referred to above submitted its interim report on 30.6.98 and sought permission of the Hon'ble Court to obtain feedback/comments on their recommendations by holding regional workshops with the State Governments, Municipal Commissioners and others involved in solid waste management.

(e)&(f): The Committee finalized its report on 25.3.99. The recommendations of the Committee include ban on throwing of waste on the streets, storage of waste at source, doorstep collection of waste, sweeping of streets on all days of the year, work norms for sweeping of streets, provision of litter bins at public places, abolition of open waste storage sites and other un-hygienic street bins, transportation of waste to synchronize with waste storage facility, conversion of bio-degradable waste into compost, recyclable waste to be passed on to recycling industry, only rejects to be landfilled in a scientific manner, caution against using unproven technologies, criteria for site selection, site development and landfill operations, institutional strengthening and capacity building, management information system, financial, health, and legal aspects, public awareness strategy and creation of technology mission for solid waste management, etc.